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wise inevitably arises between the year of publication and the year covered by the contents. The present volume, like its predecessor, is divided into thirty-three sections or departments. While it covers such subjects as education, literature, art, archaeology, religion, anthropology, chemistry, physics, geology, mathematics, astronomy, and the medical sciences, over half of the volume is devoted to current history, political science, and economics. A larger amount of space than usual is devoted to the sections on American history, international relations, and foreign affairs, and probably nowhere else in the same compass can a student find as much valuable and accurate information in regard to the relation of the United States to the European war. This material, vast in extent, has been admirably digested and arranged for convenient reference.

C. G. F.

*William Branch Giles: A Study in the Politics of Virginia and the Nation from 1790 to 1830.* By DICE ROBINS ANDERSON. (Menasha, Wis.: George Banta Publishing Company, 1914. Pp. 271.)

Though not a statesman of the first order, Giles occupied a prominent place in the political arena of his day and generation. He was successively a member of the Virginia Assembly, of the national house of representatives, and of the United States senate, and after a period of retirement on account of ill health he closed his career as governor of Virginia and a member of the famous constitutional convention of 1829-1830. In the house of representatives he was majority leader under Jefferson and in the senate he was chairman of the foreign relations committee during the critical years preceding the War of 1812.

In politics he was a Republican, a friend and confidential adviser of Jefferson, and an enemy of Hamilton. He supported Madison for the presidency, and became leader of the administration forces in the senate, but as a friend of the Smiths he was hostile to Gallatin and opposed the appointment of Monroe as secretary of state. Thereafter he freely criticized the conduct of foreign affairs, and finally became an open advocate of war. With the death of John Taylor of Caroline and Judge Spencer Roane, Giles became the foremost advocate of strict construction and state rights, and one newspaper article after another came from his pen. He complained of the intolerable conditions imposed upon the South by the tariff, and pointed out that in

view of the vast amount of southern exports and the dependence of Europe upon southern cotton, secession might not be an inexpedient step for the South. Giles was a forceful speaker, a formidable debater, and a ready writer, but his style was vituperative and his point of view partisan. Professor Anderson has performed his task well and produced an interesting volume.

JOHN H. LATANÉ.

*Abraham Lincoln: The Lawyer-Statesman.* By JOHN T. RICHARDS. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1916. Pp. vii, 260.)

Few statesmen have faced such complicated and baffling problems as those which confronted Abraham Lincoln during the vexed years from 1860 to 1865. Few statesmen during such a period have met with so much hostile criticism, some justified, much unjustified. Even his own party failed to give him the united support that might reasonably have been expected, and the man who today is hailed with nearly universal praise was then the subject of abuse and even vilification. From his own party he often received half-hearted and grudging support; the Abolitionists, many of whom differed with him on methods and policies, criticized him bitterly; while the Democrats, realizing that he owed his election in 1860 to a split in their ranks, hailed him as a minority President, blamed him for most of the evils that had fallen upon the country, and poured out upon him the vials of their wrath. Indeed, so popular is the memory of Lincoln today that there is danger of the real Lincoln being obscured by the Lincoln of myth and hero-worship. There is danger that the difficulties of his administration, which were often increased by criticism and lack of united support, may seem small in light of the view of Lincoln which obtains generally today. Even the best of the biographies of Lincoln, the pretentious work of his secretaries, Nicolay and Hay, suffers from the fact that they were too close to their beloved chief to be entirely impartial and often saw the object of their friendship and youthful service out of perspective—Lincoln appearing too large and the other men who worked with him or who opposed him too small. The character and work of Abraham Lincoln still offer fruitful fields for historical investigations, and it is not unlikely that the true biography of the real Lincoln is yet to be written. Before such a work can be produced there are certain phases of Lincoln's private and political career that must be carefully investi-